connections from Kabithirtha Churulia under Asansol Telephone Exchange;

(b) whether it is a fact that Nazrul Academy have offered a room for the proposed Telephone Exchange;

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) by when those people are likely to get the connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD'VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A new telephone exchange has been planned to be opened at Churulia during 1997-98. On commissioning of this exchange, the people of this area are likely to get connections.

Handing over the Lands of Kandla Port Back to Gujarat

2044. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Gujarat for handing over some lands of Kandla Port back to the State Government;

(b) whether Government are intending to hand over the proposed land to the Gujarat Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had requested for transfer of Gandhidham Township and adjacent lands three years ago.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The proposal has not been accepted as the land is required for the future development of the Kandla Port.

संयुक्त उद्यम के अंतर्गत सुपर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निर्माण

2045. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में संयुक्त उद्यम के अंतर्गत सुपर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निर्माण करने के लिए निविदाएं आमंत्रित की हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुल कितने पूंजीगत निवेश की आवश्यकता होगी तथा यह धनराशि किन-किन स्त्रोतों से प्राप्त होगी?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी.जी. वेंकटरामन): (क) से (ग) भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण ने केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से देश में सुपर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के प्रस्तावित 33 खण्डों हेतु व्यवहार्यता अध्ययन करने के लिए विश्वव्यापी निविदाएं आमंत्रित की थी। तथापि, भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए निधियों के अभाव के कारण इस स्कीम को जारी रखना संभव नहीं हुआ है।

Area of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome

2046. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the specified area of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the land being utilised for this purpose as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The specified area of Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh which is an abandoned airfield is 653.41 acres. The entire land has been transferred to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in July/August, 1987.

Godowns for storage of Cotton Bales

2047. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide and assist up-to-date godowns, as required in the present circumstance according to world standard for storage of cotton bales?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): The Central Warehousing Corporation and the State ware housing Corporations have godowns for storage of different commodities, including cotton bales.

The Cotton Corporation of India has already constructed two godowns at Kalamboli, New Mumbai, Maharashtra which are fairly modem with storage capacity upto 8000 bales, while an additional two godowns are currently under construction.

Introduction of Comprehensive Transport Policy

2048. SHRI RAHASBIHAR1BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a comprehensive transport policy;

(b) whether new transport policy is going to be announced during the current year;

(c) if so, the salient features of that policy; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKAT-RAMAN): (a) to (d): The Standing Committee of Parliament on Transport and Tourism on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Surface Transport has *inter alia* recommended the formulation of an integrated approach to Surface Transport. Sinch this will involve other modes of transport like railways and civil aviation also in addition to Road Transport the Planning Commission was requested by Ministry of Surface Transport to take lead in the matter and it was proposed to set up a National Transport Coordination Committee for this purpose. However, to expedite the matter Ministry of Surface Transport approached the Planning Commission to persuade the Steering Committee on Inter-Modal Linkages and Programmes to undertake this exercise. The Planning Commission has maintained that the exercise by the Steering Committee has a limited scope for the 9th Five Year Plan whereas integrated Transport Policy will have a longer perspective going beyond 9th Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Surface Transport has already approached the external funding agencies like ADB and UNDP for necessary assistance in this regard. In these circumstances it would not be possible to draw up and announce any new Transport Policy during the current year.

Participatory Irrigation Management

2049. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have given high priority to the Participatory Irrigation Management scheme in the irrigation management;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to expedite the activities in this respect;

(c) whether there is any special assistance provided to State Governments for the rehabilitation works to expedite scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to the State of Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a)Yes, Sir. The Union Government have given priority to Participatory Irrigation Management Scheme in the irrigation management.

(b) The following steps have been taken to expedite farmers, participation in the management of irrigation:

— Giving management subsidy to farmers' associations under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

— Holding National Conferences and sponsoring State Level and Project Level Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management with farmers' participation in the State and Project level Conferences to create awareness.

— Conducting training courses at national level for officers and at State level for officers and farmers;

— Providing States with guidelines and assisting them in preparation of Manuals for formation of associations and introducing amendments in Irrigation
Acts;

— Advising State Governments to constitute High Level Working Groups to formulate policies and guidelines for constituting farmers' associations; and